



HORTICULTURE INTERNSHIPS



The mission of the U.S. National Arboretum is to enhance the economic, environmental, and aesthetic value of ornamental plants through research, conservation, and display. Horticulture interns work in one or more of the Arboretum's gardens or collections. An internship project, which is presented to staff, volunteers, and stakeholders at the end of the internship, is required. In addition, interns participate in professional development opportunities and educational field trips.

Description: Interns are supervised by the National Arboretum's curators and horticulturists. Internships have flexible durations, from 3 months up to one year, beginning in May (approx.). All internships are paid positions by either hourly wage or stipend, depending upon the position. College credit may be arranged by students and is encouraged. Positions fill quickly!

Qualifications: Applicants need to have either completed course work or have acquired practical experience in horticulture or a related field. Basic gardening skills, interest in plants, and the ability to work independently are essential.

Duties & Working Conditions: Interns will be responsible for the typical duties of working in a public garden by assisting staff in the development and maintenance of the plant germplasm collections. Duties include general gardening tasks that provide proper environmental conditions, which includes planting, watering, mowing, mulching, weeding, etc. Assists staff with updating records and labels of plants in collections. Internships will involve heavy lifting, repetitive tasks, and exposure to extreme heat and humidity.

Interns will be assigned to one or more of the following areas:

- 🌿 **Asian Collections** features plants collected from the rich floras of China, Japan, and Korea.
- 🌿 **Azalea Collection** features cultivated azaleas in a wooded setting.
- 🌿 **Conifer Collection** highlights hundreds of varieties of conifers.
- 🌿 **Fern Valley Native Plant Collection** features plants native to Eastern USA in woodland and meadow settings.
- 🌿 **Friendship Garden** is an innovative landscape that includes woody plants, perennials, ornamental grasses, and bulbs designed for year-round interest.
- 🌿 **Introduction Garden** displays new plants to the gardening public, including new National Arboretum introductions.
- 🌿 **National Herb Garden** is the largest designed herb garden in the nation that includes annual, perennial, and woody herbal plants.
- 🌿 **General Grounds** involves working in various locations within the Arboretum (may include overall grounds or within collections/gardens).



To apply: Please send a cover letter indicating availability and interest areas, resume, references, and transcripts (unofficial are acceptable) via email to USNA.Internships@usda.gov.

Questions? Contact the internship office at (202) 245-4563 or USNA.Internships@usda.gov.